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Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Several soldiers and civilians were killed in artillery exchanges between the Army and opposition forces around Beirut on 1 February, according to reports by Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) has placed its forces on maximum alert. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian and Libyan armored vehicles have moved westward toward the Ash-Shuf from the Al-Biqa' valley.

An IDF spokesman, in an announcement carried by ITIM, said Israeli security forces have captured 15 "terrorists," including a village shaykh, responsible for several attacks on the IDF.

Junblatt View — The security plan is a "waste of time" and a "decisive battle" is inescapable since a solution with the Phalangists is impossible, PSP leader Walid Junblatt declared in a speech broadcast by his party's clandestine radio station, the Voice of the Mountain. Sharply criticizing the use of the Lebanese Army to further the "covetous designs" of the Al-Jumayyil family and the Phalange Party, Junblatt said Lebanon needs a "serious political solution" that would dissolve sectarian barriers, redistribute wealth more equitably, and align the country with Syria.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd will begin a visit to France on 4 February in accordance with an invitation from President Francois Mitterrand, the Royal Court announced in a statement carried by SPA.

In another development, Crown Prince 'Abdallah sharply criticized U.S. policy in Lebanon while addressing a U.S. delegation, Riyadh radio reported. Asserting that he does not comprehend the role of the Marines in Lebanon, 'Abdallah said it is a "sheer shame" that U.S. forces are there to protect "certain individuals" and to implement a policy based on "wrong advice." He also condemned "undeclared designs" behind the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement that "are directed against the interests of the Arab nation."

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Mali on 1 February and was received by the president, General Moussa Traore, according to Bamako radio. On the other hand, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said 'Arafat was in Sudan after holding talks with King Hassan II in Rabat the previous night. According to the radio, 'Arafat and Hassan discussed the "positive results" of the ICO delegation's visit to Egypt.

PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman welcomed Egypt's return to the ICO and said Egyptian support will strengthen the PLO and allow it to "enter the world from its widest door," WAKH reported. He added that it is "too early" for the PLO to consider shifting its headquarters from Tunis to Cairo. Meanwhile, Israel has banned Palestinians in the occupied territories from going to Jordan to meet with 'Arafat when he arrives there, according to Jerusalem television.

Jordan

King Husayn arrived in London on 1 February en route to the United States for medical tests, Amman radio reported.

Israel

The coalition was defeated in the Knesset by a vote of 48 to 46 on a motion dealing with the establishment of a Jewish community in Hebron, Jerusalem radio reported. In a separate development, a public call-up exercise is to be held soon to test the efficiency of the full IDF call-up method, the radio announced.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio, warned residents of seven Iranian cities near the border that "chosen targets" within the cities will be struck "after 6 February." The spokesman urged Iranians to move from the cities in order to avoid "our missiles and bombs."

Iranian "military sources" cited by IRNA denied that Iraq had destroyed five "naval targets" in the Khowr-e Musa area on 31 January. The Iranian military communique for 1 February, broadcast by Tehran radio, did not mention a second attack on Iranian naval forces in the same area on 1 February or claims that Iraq had destroyed three Iranian targets.

Iran

Any action undertaken by the Iraqi regime around Khark Island will meet with a "severe response" from Iran in the Strait of Hormuz, Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohsen Reza'i reaffirmed in an interview cited by IRNA. Forces dispatched to the southern Iranian islands are armed and kept on "full alert" to safeguard the area, the commander added. He also expressed satisfaction with the combat readiness of forces stationed in Hormozgan Province, IRNA reported.

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3 FEBRUARY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio on 3 February, declared that if threatened Iraqi raids are carried out, "all industrial centers of Iraq will become targets for the Islamic combatants." He requested that "Iraqi brethren and foreign workers and experts" keep away from these targets. The prime minister also denounced the "baseless propaganda that Islamic combatants have shelled Iraqi residential areas." He noted as "most interesting" the fact that this threat had been issued "simultaneously" with the U.S. assistant secretary of state's visit to Iraq. The prime minister warned that Iran will resort to "any available means" to foil Iraqi "adventures" and added that it has the "means and determination" to "shake the foundations of the palaces in Baghdad."

In a separate development, Iraqi planes bombed a Cypriot cargo ship in the Gulf near Bandar-e Khomeyni, AFP reported citing a source in the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Middle East and South Asian affairs, to discuss the current Arab situation and other international issues of common interest, INA reported. Murphy also briefed the president on U.S. efforts in Lebanon, Voice of the Masses radio added.

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Violent clashes between the Army and the opposition continued throughout the night in Beirut's southern suburb and in the mountain area, Beirut radio reported. The Army succeeded in regaining its positions in the southern suburb with one soldier killed and five wounded, the radio said. Civilian casualties totaled 10 dead and 35 wounded with 2 citizens being killed by shells in the city of Zahlah, according to reports by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A cease-fire agreed for 3 February did not hold and Beirut once again came under shell fire, including areas near the airport, the Presidential Palace, and the U.S. ambassador's residence in B'abda, Beirut radio reported.

Political Issues, Contacts — Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 2 February in the presence of the U.S. ambassador to discuss the military escalation in Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo stated. Junblatt arrived in Tripoli on 3 February and met with former Prime minister Rashid Karami, Beirut radio reported.

Saudi Position Confirmation — In reply to Foreign Minister Elie Salim's inquiry about Crown Prince 'Abdallah's statement on the need for U.S. Marines to withdraw from Lebanon, Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal said that his country's position on Lebanon is "firm" and has "not changed," Beirut radio reported. The Saudi foreign minister said Prince 'Abdallah's statement "may have been distorted," the radio added.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algeria on 2 February as part of his tour of Arab and African countries, Algiers radio reported. According to 'Arafat, the tour became necessary after the visit by the "head of the Zionist entity" to Zaire and Liberia, the radio added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan To Meet — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will hold a "mini-summit" with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordan's King Husayn following his return from Africa, MENA reported citing the Paris-based *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI*.

Libyan-Tunisian Talks — Libya's Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi arrived in Tunis on 1 February for an "unannounced" visit, KUNA stated. Discussions with Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali centered on bilateral relations and the current situation in the Maghreb, Africa, and the Arab-Zionist conflict, Tunis radio reported.

Sudan

Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, in a statement to SUNA, described the 2 February attack on workers at a Chevron camp as a "continuation of conspiracies against Sudan." The "plot aims at stopping Sudan's progress," the vice president added. At-Tayyib pointed out that the attackers had "infiltrated" from Ethiopia.

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